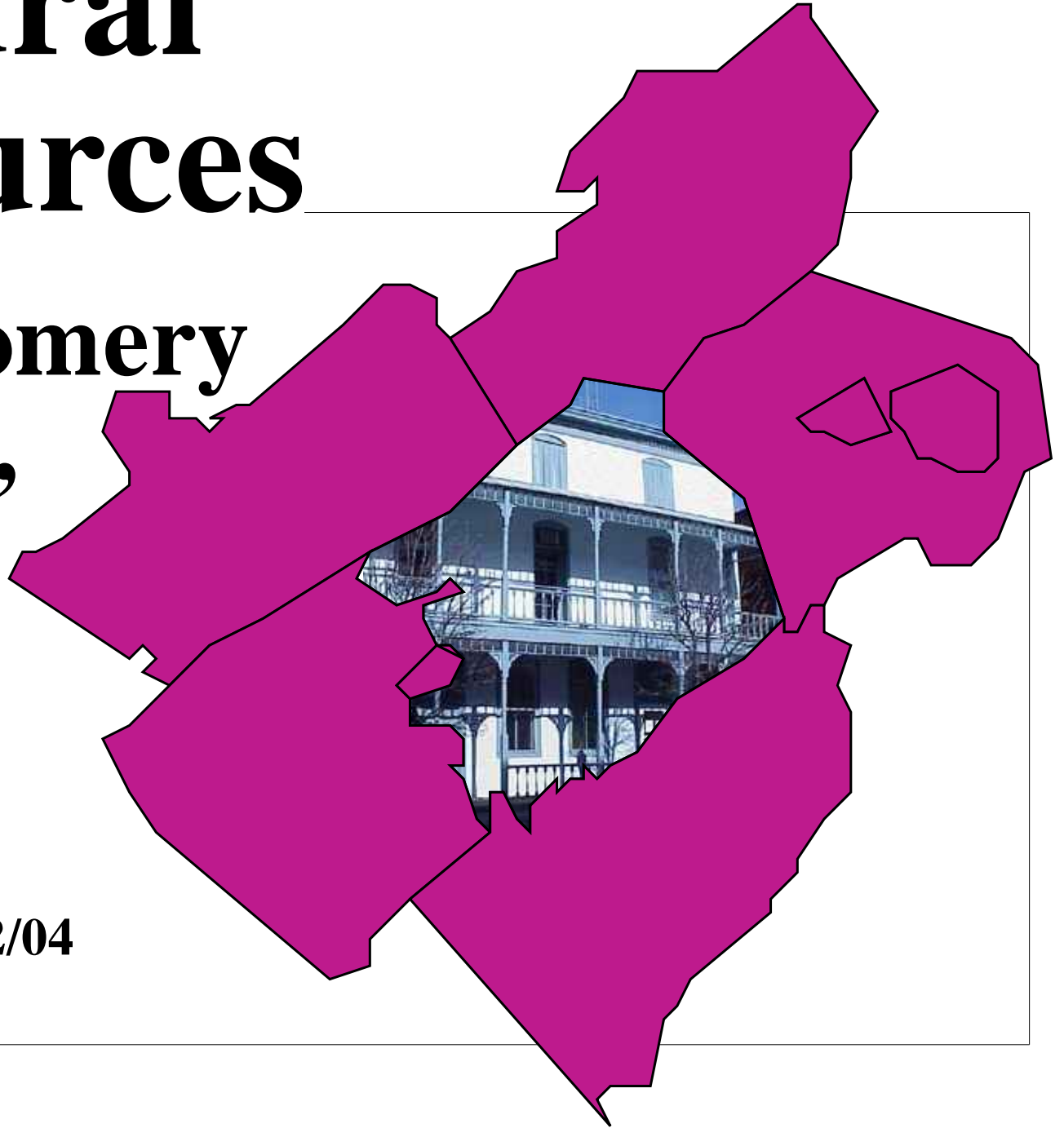


Cultural Resources

**Montgomery
County,
2025**

Adopted: 10/12/04



Cultural Resources: Executive Summary



Photos by Robert Parker

The Cultural Resources Chapter focuses on three primary areas:

- 1) Historic preservation, including public investment in the development of villages, districts, and corridors; private investment in individual properties; and historic tourism.
- 2) The Montgomery/Floyd Regional Library; and
- 3) The development and support of cultural programs and facilities.



Montgomery County, 2025: Cultural Resources

Cultural Resources provide key quality of life, educational, and economic opportunities, all of which increasingly play a role when companies and individuals judge the suitability of an area for relocation or expansion. In addition, cultural facilities provide cultural and historical continuity for an area or a specific locale, especially in terms of the preservation of historically or culturally significant structures (e.g. the County Government Center in the Imperial Reading Textile Factory and the Christiansburg Institute), districts (e.g. Lafayette, Riner, Shawsville, and Prices Fork), or viewsheds (McDonald's Mill). Cultural and community facilities include historic preservation and revitalization opportunities, museums and heritage parks, libraries, and fine arts and performance venues. While the public schools also provide significant cultural resources, they are included in the education chapter rather than the cultural resources chapter.

COMMUNITY SURVEY RESULTS:

Participant comments in this portion of the community survey can be subdivided into six distinct areas: Historic Preservation, Visual Enhancement, Cultural Activities and Amenities, Libraries, Cultural Facilities (Fine Arts, Museums, and Performance Venues), and Civic/Community Centers.

It is clear from participant comments that many of the participants believe that historic preservation and the preservation of "history" or "local character" should be promoted and, where possible, aided. Of the participants who responded specifically to the community surveys, 63% rated historic preservation as either very important or important. An additional 24% rated historic preservation as moderately important. As one participant noted, the county "...needs to preserve our "small town" history & stop

"concreting" everything in sight."

Historic preservation represents a double-edged sword: on the one hand, historic properties and districts represent significant cultural assets both within the large and small communities and in the rural portions of the county; on the other hand, most, if not all, of the properties are privately owned, often precluding direct government-based activities. In addition, historic preservation often requires that the properties be economically viable enterprises, necessitating that the governments allow some form of economic enterprise or mixed use in the structures once they have been rehabilitated.

This is especially true with larger structures.

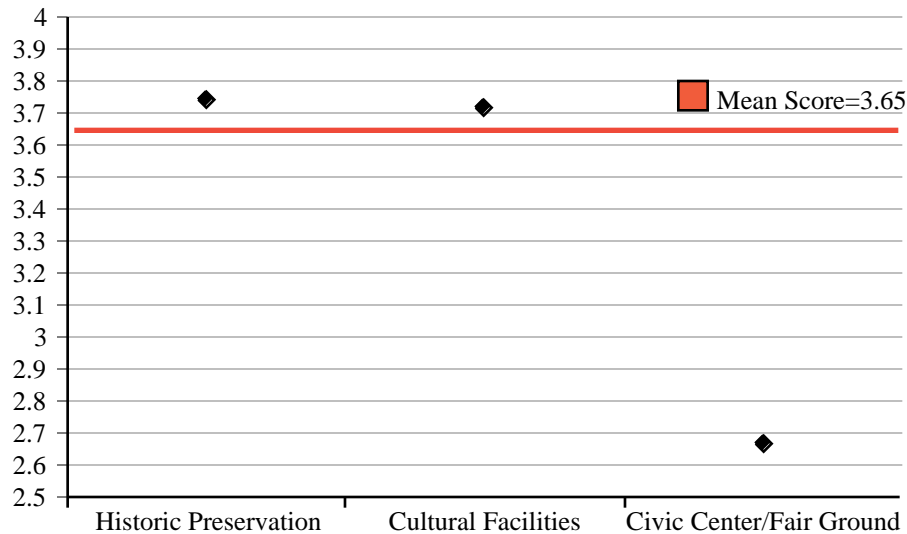
Participants did offer a range of suggestions for addressing the issue of historic preservation, including: creating community centers in local historic structures (Black House); "...Developing historic areas for tourism and educational purposes;" and encouraging revitalization of existing structures (note: revitalization comments can also be found in the economic development portion of this report, although the comments in that section are related, primarily, to the reuse of existing commercial structures). One respondent suggested specific approaches local governments could take in addressing the issue

of historic preservation:

“The historic resources of the county are highly valued in both rural and urban neighborhoods, and protection/restoration of historic structures is encouraged through county tax incentives, zoning designations and design standards, grants and award recognition for exemplary projects, and disincentives for neglect and demolition such as fines.”

Related to the issue of historic preservation, as well as the environment and planning, are the comments addressing "visual enhancement." In most cases, respondents who cited visual enhancement as a concern fall into three categories: 1) those concerned with buffering in commercial and industrial areas; 2) those concerned with neglected properties; and 3) those concerned with the visual "beauty" either along specific corridors or in certain neighborhoods.

Cultural Resource Issues: Community Survey Mean Results, 2003



Historic Preservation	3.74
Cultural Facilities	3.72
Civic Center/Fair Ground	2.67

Note: Forty-one issues were included in the “rate this issue in terms of importance” portion of the community survey. A mean score was calculated for each of the 41 issues, as well as for the total of all issues. Issues with scores higher than 3.65 (the mean for all issues) indicate that the majority of respondents rated the issue greater importance; a score lower than 3.65 indicates that the majority of respondents rated the issue of less importance than the on average. The scale for the survey was: 0=no response; 1= not important; 2=minimally important; 3=moderately important; 4=important; and 5=very important. Source: 2003 Community Survey, Montgomery County, Virginia.

One of the common complaints among residents, regardless of age, is the lack of "things to do" in Montgomery County. Indeed one participant noted that one of the county's goals should be: "... diversity of activities for all" and went on to note that there was "Nothing - Nothing - Nothing for 13-20 year old to do socially on weekends, if not involved in sports. Lived here 30 years--always been a problem..." It is a sentiment shared by many of the students who responded to the student survey as well. Another participant noted that she "would like to see less migration to Roanoke for entertainment every weekend." Of the survey respondents, 67 % rated cultural facilities as either very important or important. An additional 18% rated cultural facilities as moderately important. As the comments included in the futures statements and the strategies attest, increasing opportunity and access to cultural amenities is a recurring theme among participants.

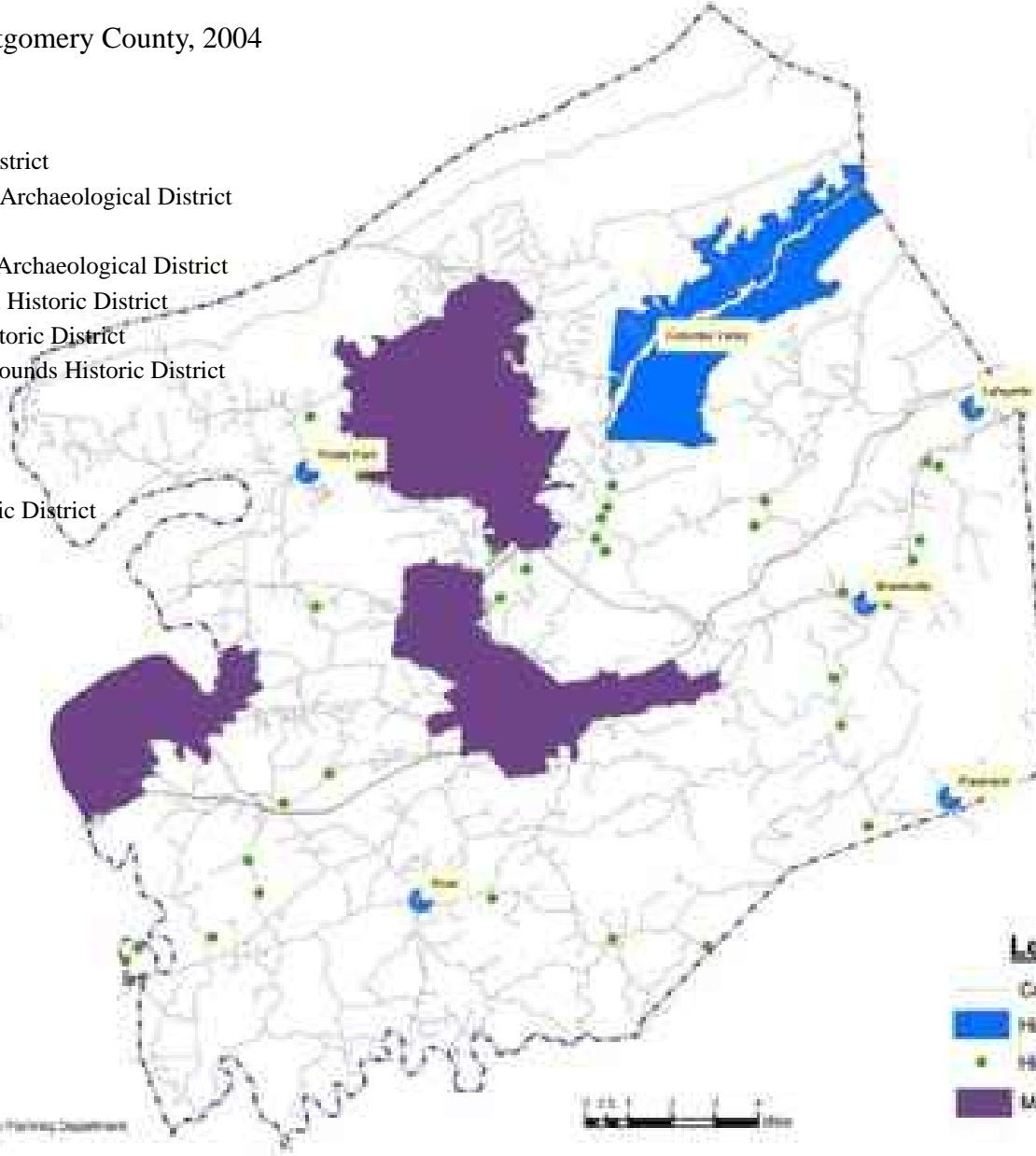
The question of who should provide these amenities, however, is open to debate. A few participants saw the local universities as central to the provision of cultural amenities and experiences. Others wanted to see cultural opportunities created outside of the scope of Radford University and Virginia Tech. As one participant noted, “while the universities offered a broad range of concerts and other cultural events, the events were passive in that community members watched the work of others rather than actively participating in the creation.”

While most respondents who cited cultural facilities and amenities as an important issue did so in very general terms (i.e. "increased cultural opportunities," "interesting cultural activities," "cultural development," and "excellent cultural centers"), other respondents were far more specific in their requests, including an emphasis on fine art venues. In a few cases, respondents suggested combining cultural facilities and amenities with community centers. The most often cited example was that of Blacksburg Middle School. Other suggestions

Historic Preservation in Montgomery County

Historic Districts in Montgomery County, 2004

Blacksburg Historic District
Cambria Historic District
East Main Street Historic District
Kentland Farm Historic and Archaeological District
Lafayette Historic District
Madison Farm Historic and Archaeological District
Miller Southside Residential Historic District
North Fork Valley Rural Historic District
Piedmont Camp Meeting Grounds Historic District
Prices Fork Historic District
Riner Historic District
Shawsville Historic District
South Franklin Street Historic District



Legend

- County Roads
- Historic Districts
- Historic Sites
- Municipalities

Prepared by the Montgomery County Planning Department
GIS and Mapping Services, 2004



Photo by Robert Parker

included the development of museums, strong support for and expansion of the library system into rural areas of the county (most notably, Elliston), and performing art venues. As with fine art centers, respondents who cited performing art venues (including the Lyric Theater) also cited the need for either a community or civic center or an amphitheater.

CURRENT AND HISTORICAL CONDITIONS AND TRENDS:

Historic Resources.

Historic preservation includes the preservation of historic structures (Cambria Depot or the Do Drop Inn), neighborhoods (East Main and the Park area in Christiansburg), and districts (Riner, Prices Fork, Lafayette, Shawsville, and McDonald's Mill). Montgomery County currently has 10 historic districts, 2 historic and archaeological districts, 1 rural historic district, and 54 individual properties in the Virginia Landmarks Registry and National Register of Historic Places, with one property pending. The majority of districts and individual properties were added to the National Register of Historic Places between 1989 and 1991 as a result of Gibson and Charlotte Worsham's Reconnaissance Level Survey in 1985-1986

and their subsequent work on district and individual structure nominations.

In 1985, Montgomery County received a Division of Historic Landmarks grant to perform a Reconnaissance Level Survey to identify the historically and architecturally significant buildings and districts in the county. The survey, had a number of results:

- 1) It provided the county with a comprehensive history of the Montgomery County and an inventory and series of quad maps of significant sites and structures; and
- 2) Led to the designation of 10 historic districts in Montgomery County.

The survey included 810 structures built



Photo by Bill Edmonds

prior to World War II, 125 of which were deemed significant. The survey information has not been updated since 1986, when the Worshams' final report was published, nor is there any indication of how many of the 810 structures included in the initial survey are still standing. Structures and districts built between the beginning of World War II and the mid 1950s are not included in the county data, although some, like Airport Acres, in Blacksburg (one of the first "planned communities"), should be assessed and added to a future historic preservation database, as should structures which meet qualifying requirements.

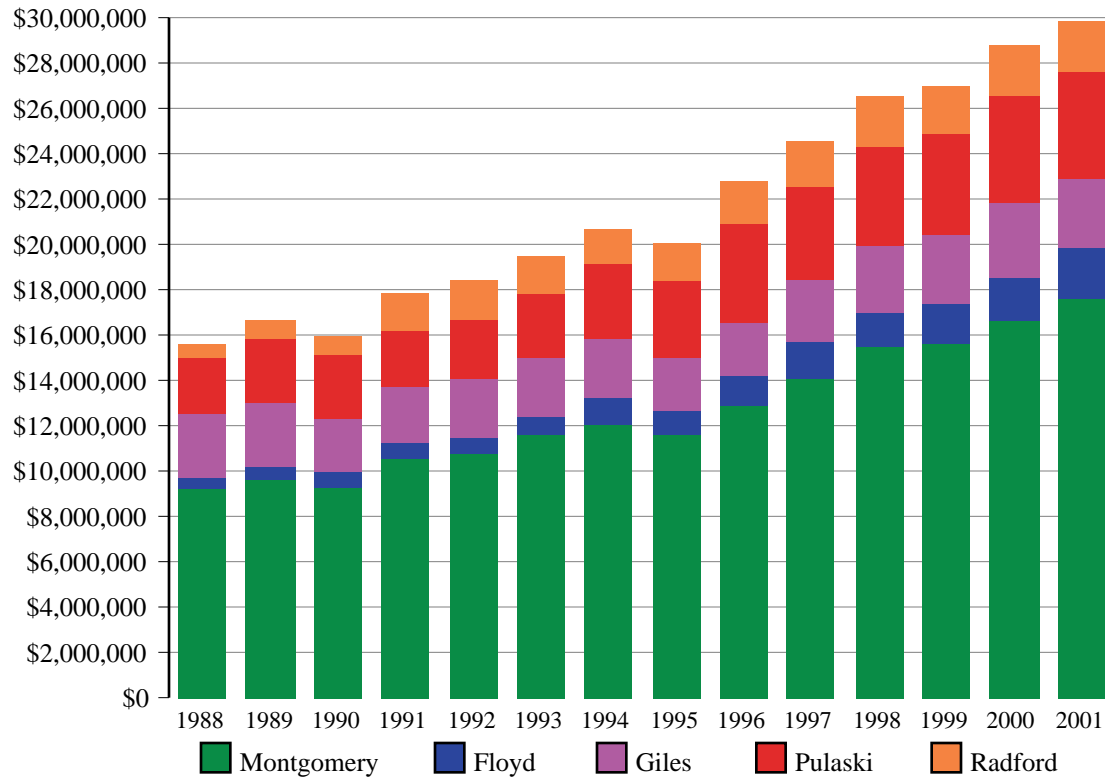
Historic Resources and Tourism.

According to the Virginia Tourism Corporation, tourism is the third largest employer (behind business and health services) and the third largest retailer (automobiles and groceries take the first two spots) in the state. In 2001, it generated \$652 million in state revenues and \$413 million in local revenues. In addition, 211,000 workers were employed in tourism related industries, accounting for 4.75% of the Virginia workforce.

Historically, Montgomery County has not actively promoted tourism, although participant responses to the community survey suggest strong support for an expansion of the industry, especially in terms of agricultural, historical, and eco-tourism. While tourism does promote economic development's emphasis on entrepreneurial enterprises and offers additional opportunities for craftsmen, artisans, and other creative workers, an expansion of tourism also means a probable expansion of low wage service jobs.

In Montgomery County, in 2001, tourism generated \$4,103,295 in state revenues and \$1,295,840 in local revenues. A comparison of local tourism related tax revenues suggests that the amount returned to locales varies a great deal. In the New River Valley, in 2001, Montgomery County had the lowest return at

Montgomery County & The New River Valley : Direct Travel Payroll, 1988-2001



Direct Travel Employment, 1988-2001

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Montgomery	960	930	860	940	920
Floyd	50	50	60	50	60
Giles	280	270	220	210	210
Pulaski	250	260	250	220	220
Radford	60	70	70	130	140
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Montgomery	970	1000	940	1020	1070
Floyd	70	80	70	90	110
Giles	200	210	190	190	200
Pulaski	240	260	270	330	300
Radford	120	120	120	140	140
	1998	1999	2000	2001	
Montgomery	1133	1136	1159	1218	
Floyd	111	116	118	131	
Giles	202	207	217	201	
Pulaski	314	317	316	320	
Radford	142	135	139	131	

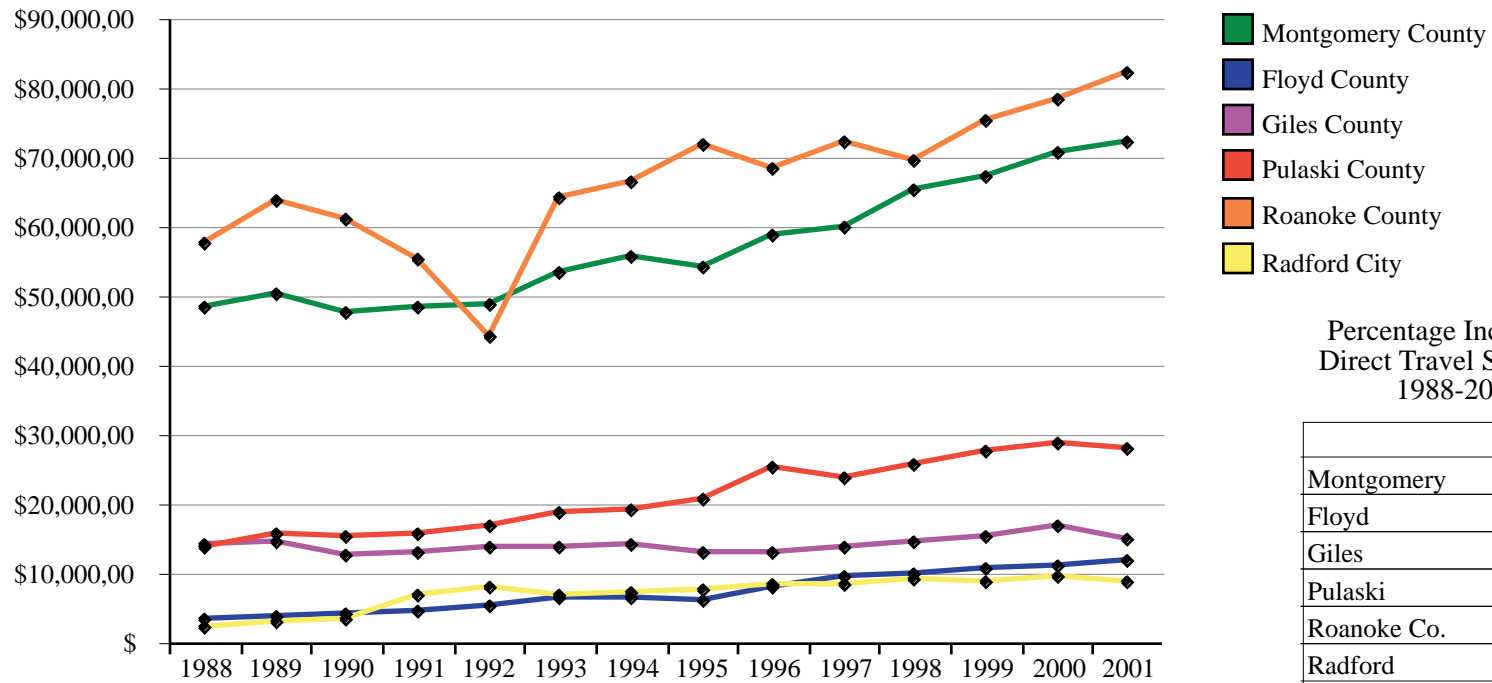
Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation, 2003

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Montgomery	\$9,280,000	\$9,690,000	\$9,320,000	\$10,640,000	\$10,810,000	\$11,590,000	\$12,160,000
Floyd	\$530,000	\$600,000	\$700,000	\$660,000	\$740,000	\$930,000	\$1,080,000
Giles	\$2,740,000	\$2,810,000	\$2,390,000	\$2,430,000	\$2,560,000	\$2,490,000	\$2,660,000
Pulaski	\$2,460,000	\$2,800,000	\$2,730,000	\$2,530,000	\$2,590,000	\$2,910,000	\$3,230,000
Radford	\$550,000	\$700,000	\$750,000	\$1,520,000	\$1,640,000	\$1,440,000	\$1,510,000
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Montgomery	\$11,700,000	\$12,980,000	\$14,110,000	\$15,514,618	\$15,650,000	\$16,708,700	\$17,689,788
Floyd	\$1,020,000	\$1,220,000	\$1,600,000	\$1,602,875	\$1,812,000	\$1,925,568	\$2,158,648
Giles	\$2,390,000	\$2,420,000	\$2,730,000	\$2,873,077	\$2,990,000	\$3,267,052	\$3,053,789
Pulaski	\$3,390,000	\$4,270,000	\$4,150,000	\$4,385,223	\$4,489,000	\$4,682,289	\$4,784,541
Radford	\$1,540,000	\$1,760,000	\$1,920,000	\$2,137,166	\$2,030,000	\$2,176,553	\$2,066,765

Percentage Increase in Direct Tourism Payroll, 1988-2001

	%±
Montgomery	190.6%
Floyd	407.3%
Giles	111.5%
Pulaski	194.5%
Radford	375.8%

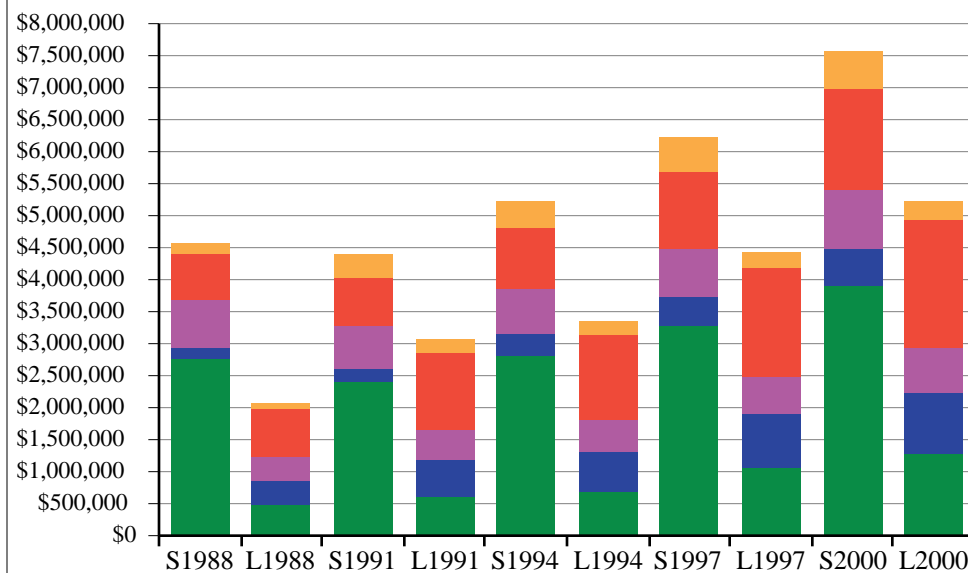
Montgomery County: Direct Travel Spending, 1988-2001



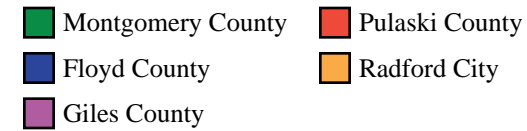
	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994
Montgomery	\$48,610,000	\$50,460,000	\$47,530,000	\$48,320,000	\$48,950,000	\$53,290,000	\$55,790,000
Floyd County	\$3,430,000	\$3,990,000	\$4,360,000	\$4,530,000	\$5,360,000	\$6,390,000	\$6,600,000
Giles County	\$14,230,000	\$14,440,000	\$12,870,000	\$13,060,000	\$13,900,000	\$13,680,000	\$14,210,000
Pulaski County	\$13,670,000	\$15,660,000	\$15,340,000	\$15,620,000	\$16,740,000	\$18,750,000	\$19,410,000
Roanoke County	\$57,740,000	\$63,920,000	\$61,100,000	\$55,330,000	\$44,110,000	\$64,300,000	\$66,710,000
Radford City	\$2,300,000	\$3,040,000	\$3,540,000	\$7,060,000	\$8,140,000	\$6,960,000	\$7,230,000
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Montgomery	\$54,100,000	\$58,710,000	\$59,880,000	\$65,345,989	\$67,306,000	\$70,961,439	\$72,262,387
Floyd County	\$6,330,000	\$8,180,000	\$9,800,000	\$9,852,165	\$10,656,000	\$11,185,533	\$12,061,175
Giles County	\$13,140,000	\$13,120,000	\$13,870,000	\$14,446,490	\$15,554,000	\$16,784,921	\$15,090,798
Pulaski County	\$20,870,000	\$25,330,000	\$23,920,000	\$25,846,852	\$27,878,000	\$28,715,810	\$28,223,643
Roanoke County	\$72,110,000	\$68,540,000	\$72,290,000	\$69,769,410	\$75,253,000	\$78,556,839	\$82,411,200
Radford City	\$7,530,000	\$8,290,000	\$8,470,000	\$9,238,918	\$8,983,000	\$9,510,548	\$8,686,349

Note: Direct travel spending increased, in Montgomery County, by 148.6% between 1988 and 2001. In the same period of time, tourism-related payroll increased 190.6%. With the exception of Radford, increases in direct tourism spending led to a greater increase in payroll. Interestingly enough, the number of employees grew at a slower percentage than did payroll, and in some cases there were fewer employees, but a significant increase in both payroll and receipts.

Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation, 2003



Montgomery County: State & Local Tourism Tax Revenue, 1988-2001



Ratio of Local Tourism Tax Revenue to State Tax Revenue, 1990-2000

	1990	1995	2000
Montgomery	0.23	0.24	0.33
Floyd	2.85	2.10	1.62
Giles	0.71	0.73	0.80
Pulaski	1.64	1.31	1.26
Radford	0.53	0.41	0.45

Source: Virginia Tourism Corporation, 2003

State Revenue from Tourism Taxes, 1988-2001

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Montgomery	\$2,790,000	\$2,810,000	\$2,530,000	\$2,410,000	\$2,450,000
Floyd	\$170,000	\$180,000	\$200,000	\$210,000	\$250,000
Giles	\$760,000	\$740,000	\$660,000	\$660,000	\$710,000
Pulaski	\$710,000	\$770,000	\$740,000	\$760,000	\$830,000
Radford	\$120,000	\$150,000	\$190,000	\$350,000	\$420,000
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Montgomery	\$2,700,000	\$2,840,000	\$2,770,000	\$3,060,000	\$3,280,000
Floyd	\$300,000	\$310,000	\$300,000	\$380,000	\$480,000
Giles	\$690,000	\$730,000	\$670,000	\$660,000	\$730,000
Pulaski	\$910,000	\$950,000	\$1,030,000	\$1,260,000	\$1,230,000
Radford	\$370,000	\$390,000	\$410,000	\$450,000	\$490,000
	1998	1999	2000	2001	
Montgomery	\$3,575,176	\$3,711,000	\$3,923,616	\$4,103,295	
Floyd	\$486,143	\$557,000	\$586,205	\$649,140	
Giles	\$759,598	\$845,000	\$914,308	\$844,193	
Pulaski	\$1,347,021	\$1,514,000	\$1,564,380	\$1,579,031	
Radford	\$526,655	\$515,000	\$547,054	\$513,119	

Local Revenue from Tourism Taxes, 1988-2001

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
Montgomery	\$500,000	\$570,000	\$590,000	\$630,000	\$620,000
Floyd	\$370,000	\$500,000	\$570,000	\$570,000	\$570,000
Giles	\$390,000	\$460,000	\$470,000	\$470,000	\$480,000
Pulaski	\$730,000	\$970,000	\$1,210,000	\$1,190,000	\$1,200,000
Radford	\$50,000	\$60,000	\$100,000	\$170,000	\$180,000
	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
Montgomery	\$660,000	\$700,000	\$670,000	\$910,000	\$1,090,000
Floyd	\$600,000	\$620,000	\$630,000	\$650,000	\$820,000
Giles	\$490,000	\$510,000	\$490,000	\$490,000	\$600,000
Pulaski	\$1,270,000	\$1,320,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,410,000	\$1,680,000
Radford	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$170,000	\$190,000	\$220,000
	1998	1999	2000	2001	
Montgomery	\$1,191,672	\$1,212,000	\$1,282,890	\$1,295,840	
Floyd	\$861,208	\$902,000	\$951,047	\$1,017,202	
Giles	\$640,899	\$679,000	\$735,933	\$656,302	
Pulaski	\$1,762,473	\$1,909,000	\$1,975,329	\$1,925,766	
Radford	\$230,323	\$229,000	\$243,687	\$220,768	



Photo by Robert Parker

.32, while Floyd County had a return of \$1.57 in local revenue for every \$1.00 in state revenue. The difference in state and local tax revenues, despite local earnings, may have more to do with the types of businesses and the primary tourism attractions. Much of Montgomery County's current tourism industries centers on Virginia Tech, which does not generate revenues from on campus activities.

The tourism industry employed 1,218 workers, or 2.1% of the local workforce, and generated a payroll of \$17,689,788 (approximately \$14,520 per worker). While tourism is often touted as an important part of a sustainable economy, evidence suggests that

many of the jobs created by tourism are either low wage, part-time, or both.

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library.

The Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library currently has two libraries in Montgomery County, located in Blacksburg and Christiansburg, with an additional library, serving the eastern portion of the county, slated to be developed in the former Meadowbrook Nursing Home facility in Shawsville. The library system represents a critical and central cultural resource in Montgomery County, providing a diverse range of opportunities, from book clubs and reading groups to family night activities.

Since 1999, the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library has seen increased usage. Circulation per capita grew from 5.36 (481,453) to 5.74 (559,846) in 2002. In the same period of time, the materials per capita (1.97 to 2.02) has also increased, as has the number of visits per capita (from 3.12 to 3.63). Between 1999 and 2002, the overall operating expenditures increased 24%, despite limited budgets.

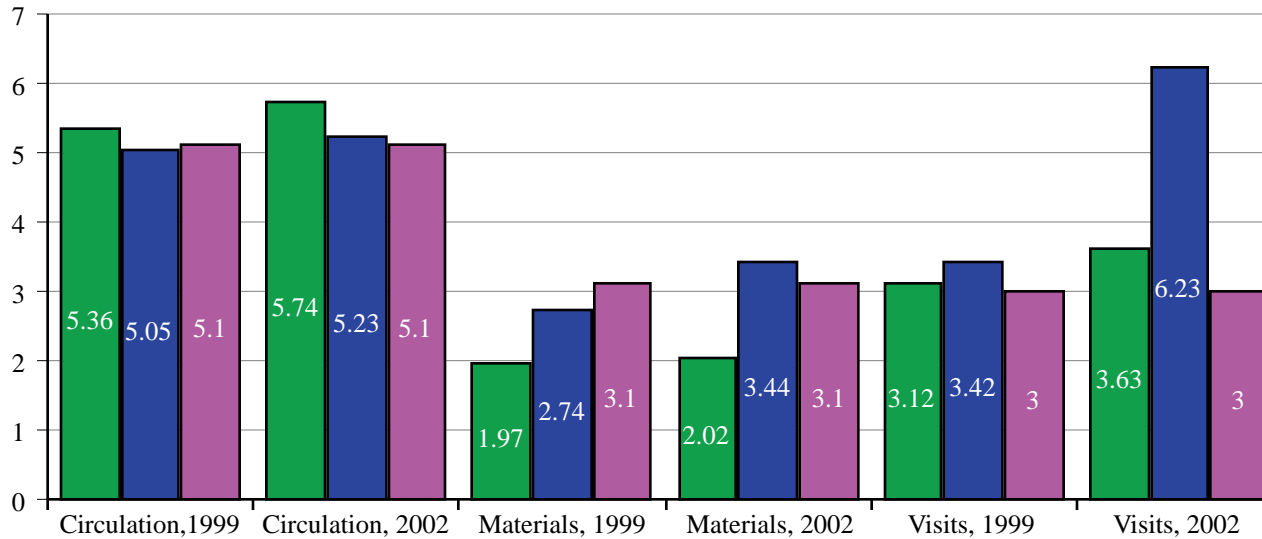
This said, the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library still falls well behind the state averages, although it meets or surpasses benchmark expectations. For operating

expenditures, Montgomery and Floyd Counties spent \$20.85 compared to the state average of \$27.38. The benchmark for expenditures for libraries similar to the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library is \$14.73, a figure that has not risen since 1999. Similar patterns show up when looking at materials and visits per capita. However, in circulation per capita and turnover rate per capita, the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library surpasses both the state median and the established median benchmark.

Cultural Facilities and Programs

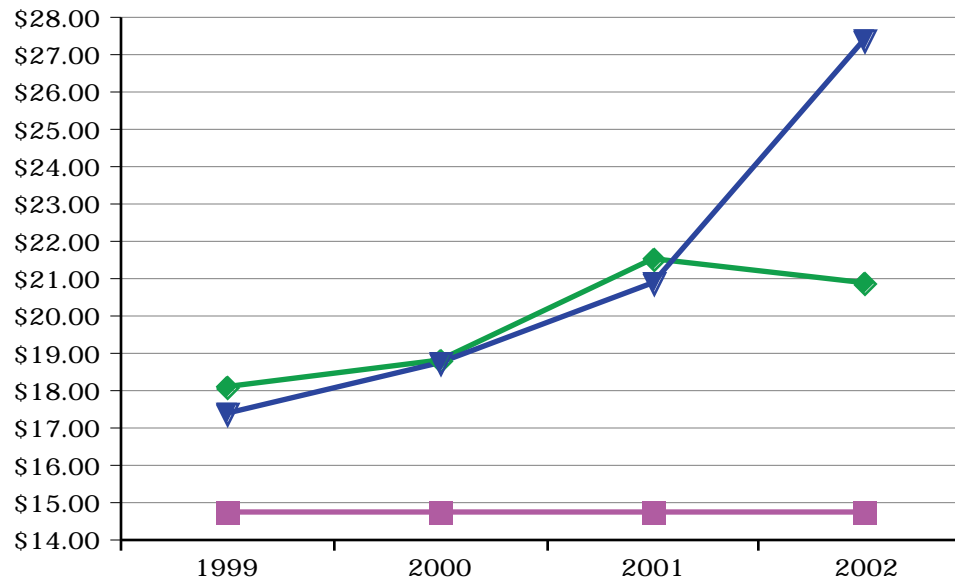
Currently, Montgomery County contributes funding to a number of cultural organizations and institutions, including the Lyric Theater, Montgomery Museum (Pepper House), Smithfield Plantation, and the High Street Community Center, which is housed in the Old Christiansburg Institute building adjacent to Schaeffer Memorial Baptist Church. In addition, Montgomery County provides significant gallery space for area artists in the County Government Center. The Montgomery County Parks and Recreation Department continues to offer access to cultural programming, especially through their seniors program.

Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library: Per Capita User Rates and Operating Expenditures, 1999-2002



Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library: per capita user rates, 1999 and 2002.

Source: Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library, 2003



Total Operating Expenditures	
1999	\$1,626,432
2000	\$1,720,308
2001	\$2,099,305
2002	\$2,032,622

	MFRL	VA Median	Med. Benchmark
1999	\$18.09	\$17.35	\$14.73
2000	\$18.76	\$18.70	\$14.73
2001	\$21.53	\$20.86	\$14.73
2002	\$20.85	\$27.38	\$14.73

Cultural Resources: Goals

CRS 1.0 Historic Preservation Goal: Promote the preservation of the historical and cultural integrity of the built and natural environment, including individual structures, districts, and historically significant landscapes and viewsheds. (1)

CRS 1.1 Historic Villages, Districts, and Corridors: Develop and revitalize historically significant districts, villages (Riner, Prices Fork, Lafayette, Elliston, Shawsville, and Merrimac), and corridors (US 460/Rt 11 and Catawba).

CRS 1.1.1 Certified Local Government Program. Establish a countywide Certified Local Government program, as outlined under the Historic Preservation Act of 1966, including maintaining and updating the inventory of historic structures in Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Montgomery County. Establishing a countywide Certified Local Government program would require a cooperative effort between Montgomery County, Blacksburg, and Christiansburg, as well as the City of Radford. (2)

CRS 1.1.2 Historic Signage. Establish a systematic program, through the Department of Historic Resources Local Marker program, to provide historic markers, town markers, and appropriate historical signage, as well as an online and printed guide to the local markers, throughout Montgomery County, Blacksburg, and Christiansburg, in order to preserve the history of the area and promote the development of a viable history-based tourism industry. (3)

Cross References and Notes:

1. Issues surrounding historic preservation are also addressed in the Planning and Land Use Policies (pages 35-50), specifically PLU 1.2.1 (f), PLU 1.3.2(b), PLU 1.4.2(d), PLU 1.5.2(b), PLU 1.6.4(d), PLU 1.7.4(a), and PLU 1.8.4(d). Flexible road standards is addressed in TRN 1.5 (pg. 221).
2. The Certified Local Governments Program, established under the Federal Historic Preservation Act (1966) is administered by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR). Program requirements and benefits are available from the DHR.
3. State provisions for historic markers are included in sections 10.1-2209 and 10.1-2210 of the Code of Virginia.

CRS 1.1.3 Historic Villages and Rural Communities. Maintain the viability and historic character of existing villages and rural communities by encouraging preservation of historic structures and preservation of the historic pattern of developed and undeveloped areas that define the villages, rural communities, and their boundaries.(4)

CRS 1.2 Preservation of Individual Properties. Promote the historic preservation of individual structures by providing local technical assistance to local landowners and developers.

CRS 1.2.1 Historic Preservation Easements. Target specific areas of the county for conservation and historic preservation easements, allowed under the Virginia Historic Preservation Easement Program (1996), thereby preserving both historic structures and districts by preserving the context in which they are situated and by affording long-term legal protection.

CRS 1.2.2 Regional Survey of Historic Resources Database and GIS Layers. Provide direct access to information on individual properties, within Montgomery County, to property owners by establishing, maintaining, and updating the County Survey of Historic Resources GIS database. (5)

CRS 1.2.3 Public Information. Provide public information on historic preservation and historic preservation easements to individual landowners and developers, including access to forms and a list of local preservation and easement specialists.

Cross References and Notes:

4. Land use policies for rural communities, villages, and village expansion areas are included in PLU 1.4: Rural Communities (pg. 38), PLU 1.6 Village Expansion Areas (pg. 41); and PLU 1.7: Villages (pg. 43).
5. Gibson and Charlotte Worsham conducted the initial survey of historic resources in Montgomery County in 1986. The survey culminated in the designation of 10 historic districts throughout Montgomery County, Blacksburg, and Christiansburg, including four village districts in the unincorporated portions of the County. The survey has not been updated since the initial survey. The initial database would be based on the Worsham survey.

CRS 1.2.4 Preservation Incentives: Density Bonuses. Provide incentives, including density bonuses, to developers to encourage the preservation of significant historic structures and viewsheds on property slated for development.

CRS 1.2.5 Preservation Incentives: Taxes. Proactively promote historic preservation by education landowners about the various state and federal tax benefits for historic preservation. Provide tax incentives, including a historic preservation land use tax program, which would allow for a reduction in real estate taxes for structures and properties which contribute to historic districts or viewsheds.

CRS 1.3 Historic Preservation and Tourism. Actively encourage the development of economic enterprises which maintain or enhance the historic nature of existing districts, including the development of tourism-based industries (bed and breakfasts, antique shops, gift shops, and attractions) and tourism corridor plans (eg. an antiques corridor along Rt. 11/460 or a Coal Mining Heritage Corridor). (6)

CRS 2.0 Montgomery/Floyd Regional Library: Provide increased access to high-quality library facilities throughout Montgomery County. (7)

CRS 2.1 New and Existing Facilities and Programs. Provide adequate public library facilities, based on population growth trends and need, throughout Montgomery County.

CRS 2.1.1 Library Facility Standards. Work with the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Board to establish a set of criteria for determining future physical library needs, including the resiting and upgrade of existing facilities and the siting of new facilities.

CRS 2.1.2 Public Information: Events and Programs. Establish a countywide public-information approach to the provision and promotion of library-based cultural and educational events and programs (special readings, art shows, book clubs, literacy and adult education programs, etc.).

CRS 2.1.3 Public Information: Technology. Work with the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Board to develop a library-based technology plan that will provide increased open access to technology-based public information, including: the provision of local, wired, public meeting rooms where citizens can watch and participate in public meetings; greater public web-access; and increased electronic access to government forms, reports, and other documents.

CRS 2.1.4 Library-Based Community Space. Work with the Montgomery-Floyd Regional Library Board to develop of community meeting space in existing facilities and the design community multi-use facilities in new and rehabilitated facilities.

Cross References and Notes:

6. Tourism is supported by ECD 4.1.1 Entrepreneurial Economy (pg. 102). Eco- and Agri-tourism are addressed in ENV 2.1.7 (Rural Development Initiatives (pg. 139).

Cross References and Notes:

7. The Montgomery/Floyd Regional Library is also addressed in PNG 3.1: Multi-Use of Public Facilities (pg. 67), PNG 3.1.4: Community-Based Schools and Public Facilities Initiative (pg. 68); EDU 1.2: Community-Based Schools and Public Facilities (pg. 116) and EDU 2.2.4: Montgomery/Floyd Regional Library (pg. 117)

CRS 3.0 Cultural Facilities & Fine Arts: Provide increased access to and support of cultural facilities and opportunities, including both public and private museums, fine arts facilities, and performing arts venues.

CRS 3.1 Cultural Facilities, Programs, and Events. Work with local organizations to provide increased cultural displays, programs, and events at publicly-owned venues, including the County Government Center, Coal Mining Heritage Park and Science Center, parks and recreation facilities, and school facilities.

CRS 3.1.1 Public Gallery / Exhibition Space.

Continue to provide gallery / exhibition space for local artists and artisans. Montgomery County currently provides publicly accessible gallery and exhibition space in the County Government Center, through a cooperative arrangement with the Blacksburg Arts Council, for local artists and artisans.

CRS 3.1.2 Public Support of Cultural Facilities and Programs. Continue County support of locally operated cultural facilities, including the Christiansburg Institute, Lyric Theater, and the Montgomery County Museum, while working with citizens groups to increase cultural opportunities in Montgomery County, including festivals, additional museum and gallery facilities, youth arts programs, and performance venues.

CRS 3.2 Heritage Parks & Trails System. Continue to develop the of Heritage Parks and Trails System to connect public, nonprofit, and private heritage and cultural sites or nodes (Coal Mining Heritage Park at Merrimac and the Farm Heritage Park at Riner), while providing venues for local cultural events (Coal Mining Heritage Day, Riner Heritage Day, etc.), artisans (an artisans' market), and performers (small performance and demonstration facilities) celebrating elements of Montgomery County's heritage. (8)

CRS 3.2.1 Coal Mining Heritage Park. Continue to implement the master plan for the Coal Mining Heritage Park, in partnership with the Coal Mining Heritage Association and other interested individuals and organizations.

CRS 3.2.2 Riner Branch, Montgomery County Museum. Develop, through a public private partnership, the Riner Branch of the Montgomery County Museum, including the cannery and the cabin located on the Auburn High School grounds, immediately south of Auburn High School.

CRS 3.2.3 Farm Heritage Park. Create a master plan for the development of a Farm Heritage Park in Riner, in partnership with Radford University, Virginia Tech, the Friends of Riner, Montgomery County Museum, agricultural and farm organization, and the Agricultural Extension Service.

Cross References and Notes:

8. Heritage parks are also addressed in EDU 2.2: Non-traditional Educational Facilities (pg. 117) and PRC 2.0 Recreational Facilities and Programs (pg. 207).
